

**MEETING  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
March 10, 2008  
6:30 PM**

The Parks and Recreation Commission of the City of Converse Met for a Regular Meeting at the City Hall Conference Room #1, Located at 405 South Seguin Street, Monday, March 10, 2008 at 6:30 PM and Discussed the Following Agenda Items:

**1. Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tonya Drake at approximately 6:33 pm. The following members were present:

Ms. Tonya Drake, Chairman	Mr. Jeff Beehler, Member
Mr. Jim Neeley, Member	Ms. Pam Kraemer, Member
Mr. Sam Perez, Jr., Member	Mr. Rex Brien, Member
Ms. Brenda Swanson, Alternate Member	Ms. Diana Pannell, Alternate Member
Ms. Nancy Bazany, Council Liaison	Mr. Sam Hughes, City Manager
Ms. Leigh Ann Rogers, Secretary	

\* Vice-Chair Sandy Laskowski and Mr. Glenn Laskowski arrived at approximately 6:37 p.m.

Member, Ms. Angie Martinez and Alternate Members, Mr. Jorge Topete and Mr. Lance Byrd were not present.

Resignation letters were received from members Mr. Richard Schobinger and Ms. Jennifer White.

**2. Recognition of Visitors.**

Mr. Randy Pannell of the Fire and EMS Commission and Councilman Chris Drake were present.

**3. Action to Approve Minutes of Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Conducted February 9, 2008.**

Motion to approve minutes of meeting conducted February 9, 2008 was made by Ms. Brenda Swanson. Seconded by Mr. Jeff Beehler. Motion passed unanimously.

**4. Action to Approve Minutes of Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Conducted February 11, 2008.**

Motion to approve minutes of meeting conducted February 11, 2008 was made by Mr. Jim Neeley. Seconded by Ms. Diana Pannell. Motion passed unanimously. There were two abstentions, Mr. Rex Brien and Mr. Sam Perez, Jr., who were not present for the meeting.

**5. February 9<sup>th</sup> East Park Tour Discussion.**

Members who attended the February 9<sup>th</sup> meeting commented on the beauty of the land and its potential if cultivated.

A visual description of the East Park was provided to those who were unable to attend by Chairman Drake.

An inquiry regarding the possibility of an individual touring the park was made.

City Manager, Mr. Sam Hughes, responded by stating that City Council has deemed touring East Park available for official-use only.

Vice-Chair Laskowski mentioned that she believed that the Parks and Recreation Commission had voted in the past to designate East Park for nature trails only and asked the City Manager for confirmation.

City Manager, Mr. Sam Hughes, confirmed that Parks and Recreation did, on record, ban sports fields and designated East Park for walking trails only.

Vice-Chair Laskowski then suggested making revisions to their earlier decisions in order to incorporate sports fields into the plans for East Park.

Mr. Jeff Beehler pointed out to Vice-Chair Laskowski that during the February 9<sup>th</sup> East Park Tour, those present assessed the area and determined that walking trails and sports fields could both be accommodated, the walking trails preferably along the edges of the older neighborhoods and the sports fields more adjacent to the newer neighborhoods.

Mr. Sam Perez, Jr. requested current overhead maps of East Park.

**6. Night in Ole Converse 2008 Discussion.**

Chairman Drake discussed her plans to help give direction to all those who will be working Night in Ole Converse 2008 by creating a "Run of Show" program which she believes will also aid in streamlining the meetings and provide an easy transition into the event.

Applications, letters, and other materials from NIOC 2007 were handed out with a request to make any necessary changes or updates needed.

In an effort to update his donation request letter from NIOC 2007, Mr. Jim Neeley asked for clarification on what projects the Parks and Recreation Commission are planning that will be funded by monies raised during NIOC 2008.

Chairman Drake, along with the assistance of Vice-Chair Laskowski, offered to research the Master Plan established by the Commission last year and will report back at the next meeting.

Chairman Drake announced plans to have a bull riding event on Friday night at NIOC.

Mr. Rex Brien expressed concerns regarding parking and recommended increasing the number of volunteers this year. Several suggestions were offered including asking other Commissions and the American Legion for assistance.

City Manager, Mr. Sam Hughes, stressed the importance of the parade line-up, being prepared for last-minute entries, and good communication with the Master of Ceremonies and all parade workers to prevent disconnects in the parade.

Coordinators still needed for advertising, VIP tent, and weenie toss.

Thursday night gate workers sign-up sheet was passed around.

City Manager, Mr. Sam Hughes, requested the formation of a grievance committee to address concerns/complaints of those participating in NIOC 2008.

Mr. Rex Brien requested more community service workers this year.

A suggestion was made to host a Mayor's 5K Run prior to the start of the parade on Saturday morning.

## **7. Park Relocation Committee Update Discussion.**

City Manager, Mr. Sam Hughes, showed maps and aerial photos that were viewed and gave a short briefing on the plans discussed at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Park Relocation Committee meeting. Mr. Hughes also reported that following the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the engineers proposed a counter-offer to leave the road as it is currently planned rather than re-routing as requested by the Committee and they will build six new ball fields in exchange.

\* Alternate member, Ms. Diana Pannell departed the meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

## **8. Discussion and Action on Meeting Non-Attendance.**

Chairman Drake briefly discussed the section of Ordinance 303 which covers meeting attendance requirements.

Mr. Jim Neeley pointed out that special-call Saturday meetings, particularly short-notice meetings, are difficult to attend.

Chairman Drake responded with understanding that absences do happen on occasion but requested that as a courtesy to all members of the Commission, absences should be reported in order to ascertain if a quorum will be achievable.

No action taken.

**9. Briefing by City Council Liaison.**

Councilwoman Bazany reported on the following:

- A variance request to allow Jackson Hewitt Tax Service to post bandit signs along FM 78 was denied.
- A variance to allow a Converse resident to keep 7 dogs in her home was approved.
- An ordinance establishing a Smartcode for the City was passed.
- Tax phase-in guidelines for businesses moving into Converse were approved.
- Two ordinances written by the Beautification and Environmental Commission regarding the maintenance of property and junked vehicles were passed.
- Independent audits of the City's and EDC's financial statements were conducted.
- A proposal to re-plat an area of the Walmart property was approved.
- Preliminary and final plats for the Lott #2 Subdivision were approved.
- The final plat for Converse Gateway Unit 1 was approved.

**10. Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting.**

Items for next meeting as follows:

- NIOC 2008 updates.
- Master Plan updates.

**11. Set Date and Time for Next Meeting – April 14, 2008, at 6:30 pm in the City Hall Conference Room.**

**12. Adjournment.**

Chairman Drake adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:18 p.m.